UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/817
28 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the details of the latest two terrorist operations by the Iraq-based terrorist organization, "People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran", also known as MKO.

On 23 August 1998 at 1100 hours, Mr. Assadollah Lajevardi, the former head of the prisons organization of Iran was assassinated by two gunmen at his business in Teheran's bazaar. Mr. Asghar Reais Esmaeili, a friend of Mr. Lajevardi, and Mr. Zeinolabedin Masoudi, a passer-by, were also killed by the two gunmen. One of the assailants, who sustained serious injuries in the clash with the police, was arrested and died two days latter in custody, and the other gunman escaped the scene. Tight security measures have been adopted to locate and arrest the second assailant. The MKO claimed responsibility for this terrorist action on the same day.

Based on reliable information, the two gunmen had entered Iran to carry out the assassination, which had been planned by the MKO in Iraq. They were escorted by the Iraqi forces to the border point at the Nasiran sentry post of Iraq, where they infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran around the Saleh-Abad sentry post in the Ilam province.

On the same day, at 1300 hours, a two-person team of the same terrorist organization, trying to infiltrate into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the border point of Khosro-Abad, engaged Iranian border guards. In the ensuing clash, lieutenant Akbar Bazigar, an Iranian border guard, was killed and the two infiltrators retreated to Iraqi territory, leaving behind an Iraqi Kalashnikov automatic rifle and a Browning handgun.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns such terrorist activities, which emanate from Iraqi territory, cause human casualties and involve a gross violation of the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran registers its strong objection to the Government of Iraq for aiding, abetting and harbouring known terrorists and for facilitating their cross-border

terrorist operations against Iran. Such practice displays total disregard by Iraq of the principle of good-neighbourly relations.

Iran holds Iraq responsible for such cross-border incursions and terrorist activities against its nationals and territorial integrity, and for their consequences.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative